

Knot in Hyde Park Committee

Wednesday, May 17, 5:30 PM

MINUTES

Meeting by Zoom opened at 5:30. W. Lane, R. Pearson, T. Pearson, F. Landrey

Apologies: T. Breese.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 5:30 PM

Kirsten let Mary know before the meeting that she needs to step down from the Committee. She apologized but her plate is too full. She wants to continue to look after the patch on Thompson Hill.

Report from the Network

Mary summarised various conversations/communications since last meeting. With Vtrans (in process of hiring invasive specialist; will not approve pilot project to bury some KW in the Rt 100 ROW; they 'investigated' mobile incinerator but did not move forward); Rachel of USFW at Silvio Conte who has worked on KW for many years (there are 6 CISMAs in VT meeting annually; Dept of Ag has reconvened the Noxious Weed Committee for first time in a long time, VIEPAC; injection works; smothering has limitations.) Nix the Knotweed (group in Connecticut with "3-pulls/season for 3-years" strategy put KiHP "Drying Stack" note on their Facebook page).

Updates

Instagram: Tina agreed to look into setting up page for us if Kaylie isn't going to be able to do it.

Goat Pilot: We reviewed the draft proposal for the Goat Grazing Pilot at Gamble. All agreed we should take it to the SB.

Cricket Hill: Francis detailed plan agreed with science teacher Chris Whitlock. Group cut with students on Monday June 5, 11:30 - 1 PM (rain day June 7). July cut will be scheduled. And then again in September. We want to spec a plan for signage at the site; Chris to identify students to work on that.

Herbicide Pilot: need to get something on paper and put before the SB. June 9 (?)

Other Projects/Issues

Root masses at Gamble and McKinstry/Diggins all appear to have lost the battle to live through the winter. We are leaving them in place (dead) until a possible autumn/season-end burn; or just let nature take its course.

Friends of GRR have stepped up to take on a site along the Dam Road with guidance from KiHP (Great!). Rich and Tina will flag a possible second site on Dam Road.

Drying stacks are all dead/composted. Great result.

Smothering: we will not remove any covers this season. (McK/Diggins site was today fortified with lots more RR). Next season: do some test removals to see how vigorous the regrowth is. We need to be in touch with roofing companies again soon.

BFR/LVRT: We will resume Wednesday evening KW pull on May 31. Notice to be posted to FPF.

Ballfield Site: Rich reported the drying stack looks good. There is KW sprouting at the site, but it is much less than last year (so far). (He will monitor experience of the Stowe Barber, where owner has a version of smothering underway.)

Website: still need to upload the agreed updates.

Data Collection: add a "site" called "Education and Outreach" so time spent advising people on what to do is tracked.

Digital Map: no news.

FPF Post/Season-opening update: to do.

We all agreed Wendy's idea of an insert with tax bills is a great opportunity for education/outreach. We will agree the insert by mid-June.

Meeting adjourned around 6:30 PM